

## **Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission Resolution Supporting Waste Management**

- WHEREAS:** Kentucky produces an estimated 16.8 million pounds of garbage a day.
- WHEREAS:** In 1998, 83% of the state's households participated in a garbage collection program. It is not known how the remaining 17% of the state's households are disposing of their garbage. That amounts to an estimated 2.9 million pounds of garbage a day.
- WHEREAS:** Open dumps and roadside litter attests to the fact that trash continues to be illegally dumped across the state. During 1998, county officials issued 8,286 open dump citations and cleaned up 2,132 dumps at a cost of \$4.0 million.
- WHEREAS:** The Ky. Transportation Cabinet allocates \$4 million a year to clean up litter along state roads (primary and secondary state roads). During 1999, the Transportation Cabinet contracted to have litter cleaned up along 13,832 miles of roads at an average cost of \$273 per mile.
- WHEREAS:** All Kentucky counties have universal garbage collection (available service) of which 23 counties have mandatory garbage collection ordinances.
- WHEREAS:** Garbage participation rates vary greatly by county—from a high of 100% to a low of 22%. In 1997, the average monthly residential garbage collection fee in Kentucky was \$10.26 a month.
- WHEREAS:** Illegal dumping, littering, and poor waste management practices pose significant risks to the environment and public health while impairing the potential of the Commonwealth to support tourism and economic growth.

### **Now be it resolved by the Environmental Quality Commission:**

1. That Environmental Quality Commission recognizes and supports the need for statewide mandatory garbage collection and additional measures to promote community and curbside recycling programs.
2. That the Environmental Quality Commission commends the General Assembly for its efforts to explore options such as container recycling, advanced deposit fees, and other litter/solid waste fees/surcharges /assessments to support proper waste management practices. It is the Commission's hope that all interested parties will work together to find a workable solution that will promote an aggressive and effective litter abatement/recycling/waste management program in Kentucky.
3. That this resolution be forwarded to Governor Paul E. Patton, James E. Bickford, Secretary of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet and members of the Kentucky General Assembly.

**Adopted February 24, 2000**

**EQC Commissioners**

*Aloma Dew, Chair, Owensboro*

*Betsy Rudd Bennett, Louisville*

*Patty Wallace, Louisa*

*Gary Revlett, Shelbyville*

*Robert Riddle, Midway*

*For more information regarding the status of legislation in the 2000 session visit the Legislative Research Commission website at <http://www.lrc.state.ky.us>*